

MODULE 2: ADDITION AND SUBTRACTION OF WHOLE NUMBERS

The likelihood that our shepherd of Module 1 had all his sheep grazing in one spot is rather small. More likely, the sheep were distributed in small clusters at various parts of the pasture. So in order to keep track of the total number of sheep, the shepherd would have to combine two or more smaller counts.

The process of combining these smaller counts to obtain a total count is known as the process of addition. Addition is the main topic of this module.

Example 1

Show how the shepherd would use tally marks to indicate the total number of sheep if five sheep were grazing in one part of the pasture and seven sheep were grazing in another part of the pasture.

Using one tally mark for each sheep, the shepherd would write $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ to indicate the five sheep in one part of the pasture (This is the principle we used in Example 1 of Module 1).

Then he would write $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 5 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 6 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 7 \\ \hline \end{array}$ to represent the seven sheep in the other part of the pasture.

He would then combine the two counts into one by writing:

$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 5 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 6 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 7 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 8 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 9 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 10 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 11 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 12 \\ \hline \end{array}$

Using modern numerals, we would say that the shepherd added 7 sheep to 5 sheep to get a total of 12 sheep.

Answer: $\begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 5 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 6 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline 7 \\ \hline \end{array}$

The digits are supplied for the sake of clarity. The shepherd wouldn't write the

The extra space between the fifth and sixth tally mark is to emphasize the two separate counts, but the extra spacing is not necessary. All that matters is the total number of tally marks.

To indicate that we added 7 to 5 and got 12 as the total we write: $5 + 7 = 12$ and we say that we added 5 and 7.

Vocabulary

- (1) "+" is called a plus sign.
It is read as "plus"
- (2) $5 + 7$ is read as "5 plus 7"
and is called the sum of
5 and 7.
- (3) "=" is called an equal sign.
It is read as "equals" or
"is".
- (4) So $5 + 7 = 12$ is read as:
The sum of 5 and 7 is 12.
or
The sum of 5 and 7 equals 12.
or
Five plus seven is twelve.
or
Five plus seven equals twelve.
- (5) In the sentence $5 + 7 = 12$,
5 and 7 are called the terms
or summands; while 12 is
called the sum (of 5 and 7).

Notice the order. We are starting with 5 and adding 7 to it. So we write $5 + 7$. $7 + 5$ would mean that we started with 7 and added 5 to it. We'll say more about this in the next example.

Do not say "5 and 7"
↓ ↓

In terms of grammar, think of "=" as meaning "is a synonym for". That is, when we write $5 + 7 = 12$ it means that 5 + 7 and 12 are different numerals that name the same number (twelve).

It is not important that we were dealing with 5, 7, and 12. Rather the statement $5 + 7 = 12$ tells us two much more important things. Namely:

- (1) The sum of two whole numbers is always a whole number.
- (2) When we say $5 + 7 = 12$ we are assuming that 5, 7, and 12 are adjectives modifying the same noun. For example 5 nickels plus 7 nickels is 12 nickels; 5 dimes plus 7 dimes is 12 dimes; but 5 nickels plus 7 dimes is neither 12 nickels or 12 dimes.

That is, 5 and 7 are two (different) whole numbers; but $5 + 7$ is the single whole number, twelve (12).

At least nickels and dimes have cents as a common denomination, but 5 miles plus 7 hours doesn't even make sense.

Example 2

What is the sum of 7 and 5?

Since the 7 is written first, we may think in terms of

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----

So the sum of 7 and 5 is 12. We might also say that 7 plus 5 is (equals) 12.

Comparing Examples 1 and 2 we notice that while $5 + 7$ and $7 + 5$ represent a change in order, the sum is the same. In terms of tally marks, whether we write

or

the total number of tally marks is the same.

So when we write $5 + 7$ it makes no difference in the answer (sum) whether we view it as adding 5 to 7 or adding 7 to 5.

This can be a very helpful piece of information.

Example 3

Find the sum of 39 and 3.

We could write 39 tally marks followed by 3 more tally marks. An easier way is to count, starting with 39. That is, as shown below, write 39, followed by 3 "blanks"

39

Then count in sequence to obtain:

39 40 41 42

Do you see how much more cumbersome it would be if we had been asked to add 39 to 3? It is indeed

Answer: 12

In terms of "fill-in-the-blank" the question is:

$7 + 5 = \underline{\quad}$

That is, $7 + 5 = 12$

This is a more significant result than at first may meet the eye. In most real-life situations, the result does depend on order. For example it is easier to take 2 coins from a collection of 6 than it is to take 6 coins from a collection of 2!

Answer: 42

Using blanks is like counting on your fingers. In fact if we use tally marks rather than blanks to stand for fingers we have:

39 $\begin{array}{c} | \\ 40 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{c} | \\ 41 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{c} | \\ 42 \end{array}$

helpful that we may view $3 + 39$ as being equivalent to $39 + 3$.

Example 4

Fill in the blank:

$4 + 57 = \underline{\quad\quad}$

Rather than start with 4 and add 57

blanks, we can start with 57 and add 4 blanks.

Proceeding as we did in Example 3, we get:

57 58 59 60 61

The fact that we may replace $4 + 57$ by $57 + 4$ without changing the answer is important enough to be given a special name in mathematics.

Answer: 61

Youngsters often count on their fingers, using the numbers in the order they appear. For this reason, it is easier for them to do $57 + 4$ than $4 + 57$ --and they are not born with the knowledge that $57 + 4$ and $4 + 57$ are equal.

Vocabulary

If f and s stand for any two numbers, then $f + s = s + f$. The fact that we can change the order of the summands without changing the sum is known as the commutative property of addition

Think of f as standing for the first number and s for the second number. This generalizes our above discussion beyond the specific pairs of numbers 4 and 57, 5 and 7, or 39 and 3.

Notice that if the number of blanks is not in excess of our number of fingers, we often count on our fingers to get the answer. Perhaps this is the way you first learned your addition tables. By way of review:

This is another reason why 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are called digits. We add them using our fingers (digits).

Example 5

How much is $6 + 9$?

Answer: 15

This is another way of being asked to find the sum of 6 and 9. If we wanted to use the tally mark method of Example 1, we could write:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

We could also write:

6 $\frac{7}{1}$ $\frac{8}{2}$ $\frac{9}{3}$ $\frac{10}{4}$ $\frac{11}{5}$ $\frac{12}{6}$ $\frac{13}{7}$ $\frac{14}{8}$ $\frac{15}{9}$

A quicker way would be to use the commutative property of addition and write:

9 $\frac{10}{1}$ $\frac{11}{2}$ $\frac{12}{3}$ $\frac{13}{4}$ $\frac{14}{5}$ $\frac{15}{6}$

The key point is that we can do Example 5 by counting on our fingers. In a similar manner we can construct a table showing us how to find the sum of any two single-digit numbers. The table is shown as Figure 1.

		<u>second number</u>									
first number	+	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	0	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	2	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	3	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	4	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	5	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	6	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	7	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	9	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18

(Figure 1)

How to read the table:

Suppose we want to find how much $5 + 3$ is.

- (1) Look down the first column and locate the row headed by "5"
- (2) Look along the first row and locate the column headed by "3"
- (3) The answer is the number that is common to both row and column:

	+	0	1	2	3	4
	0					
	1					
	2					
	3					
	4					
→	5				8	

You may wonder why we bother with 0 in the table;
but as we have already seen, 0 plays a very important role
in place value. In fact, the role of 0 is so important
that we give "adding 0" a special name:

```
*****
**                                     **
**   Vocabulary                     **
**                                     **
**   0 is called the additive identity.  **
**                                     **
**   Namely, adding 0 to a number does  **
**   not change the "identity" of that  **
**   number.                            **
**                                     **
**   More symbolically, if n denotes    **
**   any number, then:                  **
**                                     **
**                $n + 0 = n$            **
**                                     **
*****
```

Example 6

What is the sum of 673 and 0?

Answer: 673

If we add nothing to 673 then we still
have 673. In terms of the shepherd idea, if
there are 673 sheep in one part of the pasture
and none anywhere else; then there are 673 sheep
in all.

*Ordinarily we wouldn't start
counting until we had at
least one; but with place
value we have to use 0 as a
digit.*

The important thing about place value is that once
we know the table indicated in Figure 1, we can add any
whole numbers. The point is, for example, that once
we know that $6 + 9 = 15$, we also know that the sum of
6 hundred and 9 hundred is fifteen hundred; that the
sum of 6 thousand and 9 thousand is 15 thousand, and
so on. As we shall see beginning with the next ex-
ample, this is very helpful.

*That is, when we say that
 $6 + 9 = 15$, we are assuming
that 6, 9, and 15 are all
adjectives that modify the
same noun*

Example 7

What is the sum of 2,000,000,000
and 3,000,000,000?

Answer: 5,000,000,000

2,000,000,000 means 2 *billion*

and

3,000,000,000 means 3 *billion*

Since $2 + 3 = 5$, it follows that

2 billion + 3 billion = 5 billion; or,

in place value notation:

$$2,000,000,000 + 3,000,000,000 = 5,000,000,000$$

To allow place value to keep track of
the denominations for us, we often use the
vertical notation:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2,000,000,000 \\ + 3,000,000,000 \\ \hline 5,000,000,000 \end{array}$$

Example 8

What is the sum of 231 and 456?

Answer: 687

It would be brutal to have to write

231 tally marks, followed by an additional
456 tally marks.

Instead we write the nouns the digits
modify. Namely:

	hundreds	tens	ones
	2	3	1
(+)	4	5	6
	6	8	7

Get the idea? 2 hundred + 4 hundred is
6 hundred; 3 tens + 5 tens is 8 tens; and
1 one + 6 ones is 7 ones.

But don't forget: The adjectives have to modify
the same noun.

Horizontal notation has be-
come more popular since the
advent of calculators. That
is, you don't have to "line
up" the powers of ten on
the calculator; the calcula-
tor does it by itself.

In terms of Roman numerals,
we're adding CCXXXI and
CCCCXXXXIIIIII. Combining
we get: CCCCXXXXIIIIII
CCXXXI

or:

CCCCCXXXXXXXIIIIIIII

Using the nouns properly,
we got the answer simply by
knowing: $2 + 4 = 6$, $3 + 5 = 8$,
and $1 + 6 = 7$

Using the vertical form,
we'd simply write:

$$\begin{array}{r} 231 \\ + 456 \\ \hline 687 \end{array}$$

Example 9

Find the sum of 2 thousand and 3 hundred.

Using the powers of ten we have:

	thousands	hundreds	tens	ones
	2	0	0	0
(+)	0	3	0	0
	2	3	0	0

In this example we had:

2 thousands + 3 hundreds.

The answer wasn't "5" because 2 and 3 were modifying different nouns.

The point is that by working with one power of ten at a time, addition is reduced to consecutive sums of single digits. The problem is that in place value notation we cannot have more than nine of any denomination (power of ten).

Example 10

Find the sum of 57 and 68.

We proceed as before to obtain:

hundreds	tens	ones
	5	7
	6	8
	11	15

However we can exchange 10 ones for 1 ten and 10 tens for 1 hundred to get:

hundreds	tens	ones
	5	7
	6	8
	11	15
	12	5
1	2	5

Answer: 2,300

The 0's are included for emphasis. Notice how we use the facts that $2 + 0 = 2$; $3 + 0 = 3$; and $0 + 0 = 0$.

See?

2 thousand + 3 thousand =
5 thousand

2 hundred + 3 hundred =
5 hundred

but
2 thousand + 3 hundred is
neither 5 hundreds nor
5 thousands.

Answer: 125

See the problem? If we just wrote the digits in the answer without the nouns, it would look like 1115 and this would be confused with 1,115 (instead of being read as 11 tens and 15 ones)

While each of the last three rows name the same number, only the last row is permitted when we use place value notation.

Rather than do all this writing, we have an abbreviated way for representing the vertical form. Namely, we write the problem as before:

$$\begin{array}{r} 57 \\ + 68 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Looking at the ones place, we say:

"8 plus 7 is 15. 'Bring down' the 5, and 'carry' the 1." As we say this we write the 5 beneath the 8, and the 1 above the 5 in the tens-place. Thus:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 57 \\ + 68 \\ \hline 5 \end{array}$$

We then move to the tens-place and add the 1, 5, and 6 to get:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ + 5 \\ 6 \\ + 6 \\ \hline 12 \end{array}$$

We write the 12 in the tens-place by placing the 2 underneath the 6. That is:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 57 \\ + 68 \\ \hline 125 \end{array}$$

But this approach has introduced a new problem. For the first time in this module we added more than two terms. Recall that our addition table only showed how we could add two (single-digit) terms.

The next example will indicate how we can extend the idea of adding two terms. Namely we shall see that no matter how many terms there are, we need only add two at a time.

We can write $8 + 7 = 15$ because both 8 and 7 modify the ones-place.

The phrase "Bring down the 1 and carry the 1" merely says to keep 5 of the 15 ones and exchange the other 10 ones for 1 ten.

Again we can add the 1, 5, and 6 because all three digits modify the tens-place

Once you understand that in place value we can only have a single digit per power of ten, it should be easy to see that this method is just an abbreviation for what we did in Example 10.

Example 11

A shepherd has three sheep in one part of the pasture, four sheep in another part of the pasture, and five sheep in a third part of the pasture. Show how the shepherd could indicate the total number of sheep by using tally marks.

In essence, this is much like Example 1.

Using one tally mark for each sheep, he would write $\begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$ to indicate the three sheep in one part of the pasture; he'd write $\begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ to indicate the four sheep in the second part of the pasture; and he'd write $\begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$ to indicate the five sheep in the third part of the pasture.

Combining the tally marks, he'd have

$\begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 5 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 6 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 7 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 8 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 9 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 10 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 11 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 12 \\ \hline \end{array}$

If we wanted to write Example 11 in the modern language of place value, we might write:

$$3 + 4 + 5 = 12$$

But again notice that the shepherd could have counted the groups in any order. Even in the given order, he could have used the following two different groupings:

$$\begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 5 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 6 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 7 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 8 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 9 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 10 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 11 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 12 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad (1)$$

or

$$\begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 2 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 3 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 4 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 5 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 6 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 7 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 8 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 9 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 10 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 11 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 12 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad (2)$$

In mathematics we use parentheses in much the same way that hyphens are used in English. In (1) we first added 3 and 4 and then added 5. We'd write this as:

$$(3 + 4) + 5 \quad (3)$$

Answer: $\begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|l|} \hline 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$

Again, the digits are supplied only for clarity and would not have been used by the shepherd.

In (2) we first added 4 and 5 and then added this to 3. We'd write this as:

$$3 + (4 + 5) \quad (4)$$

Although the groupings in (3) and (4) are different, both represent the same number. Namely;

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} (3 + 4) + 5 = \\ \downarrow \\ 7 + 5 = \end{array} \right\} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 3 + (4 + 5) = \\ \downarrow \\ 3 + 9 = \end{array} \right. = 12 \leftrightarrow \leftrightarrow \leftrightarrow \leftrightarrow 12$$

The fact that the sum of three numbers does not depend on how we group the three numbers is an important enough fact to warrant a special name:

Definition
 For any three numbers f , s , and t
 $f + s + t$ is the same whether we
 read it as $(f + s) + t$ or as
 $f + (s + t)$. That is:
 $f + (s + t) = (f + s) + t$.
 this is known as:
 the associative property
 of
 addition

Note:

Don't confuse the commutative property of addition with the associative property of addition. The commutative property allows us to change the order of the numbers; while the associate property allows us to change the grouping (but the order stays the same).

The same kind of problem exists in language. Look at the phrase:
 the high school building
 We can interpret it as:
 the high-school building
 or as:
 the high school-building
 The two meanings are quite different, even though the words are in exactly the same order. If we used parentheses instead of hyphens, we'd write either the (high school) building or the high (school building

While we're stating this in terms of three numbers, you should also notice that for any number of terms, the sum does not depend on the grouping of the terms.

For example, the fact that $(3 + 4) + 5 = (4 + 3) + 5$ is the commutative property. If the parentheses are removed we can see that the order of the numbers is different in the two sums.
 But when we write:
 $(3 + 4) + 5 = 3 + (4 + 5)$
 we are using the associative property. Namely when the parentheses are removed, the order of the numbers is the same in each sum.

Example 12

How much is $4 + 7 + 3$?

We can read this problem as if it were:

$$(4 + 7) + 3,$$

in which case we get:

$$\begin{aligned}(4 + 7) + 3 &= 11 + 3 \\ &= 14\end{aligned}$$

We could also have read the problem as:

$$4 + (7 + 3),$$

in which case we'd get:

$$\begin{aligned}4 + (7 + 3) &= 4 + 10 \\ &= 14\end{aligned}$$

The same idea works with for any number of digits.

Example 13

How much is $23 + 14 + 42$?

We can first add 23 and 14 and then

add 42. That is, we can read the problem as:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}(23 + 14) + 42 & = & \\ \downarrow & & \\ 37 & + 42 & = \\ & 79 & \end{array}$$

We could also have read the problem as:

$$\begin{array}{rcl}23 + (14 + 42) & = & \\ & \downarrow & \\ 23 + 56 & = & \\ & 79 & \end{array}$$

Everything within parentheses is one number. Hence $4 + 7$ can be replaced by 11.

Notice that in this approach we never add more than two numbers at a time.

We could use the commutative property here and replace $4 + 10$ by $10 + 4$.

Answer: 79

See how we add two terms at a time? We already know that:

$$\begin{array}{r} 23 \\ +14 \\ \hline 37 \end{array} \text{ and that } \begin{array}{r} 37 \\ +42 \\ \hline 79 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 14 \\ + 42 \\ \hline 56 \end{array} \text{ and } \begin{array}{r} 23 \\ + 56 \\ \hline 79 \end{array}$$

Let's now add two terms that have several digits and we'll leave more complicated problems to the Self-Test in the Study Guide.

Example 14

Find the sum of 34,567 and 27,298.

Answer: 61,865

In terms of powers of 10, we have:

	10,000	1,000	100	10	1
	3	4	5	6	7
(+)	2	7	2	9	8
	5	11	7	15	15

This tells us that the sum is 5 ten-thousands, 11 thousands, 7 hundreds, 15 tens and 15 ones. The problem is that when we omit the nouns (denominations) we can only have single-digit adjectives. So we take the above answer and keep exchanging 10 of any power of ten for 1 of the next greater power of ten. That is:

	10,000	1,000	100	10	1
	3	4	5	6	7
(+)	2	7	2	9	8
	5	11	7	15	15
	5	11	7	16	5
	5	11	8	6	5
	6	1	8	6	5

See how we're never adding more than two single-digits at a time?

It would be confusing, to say the least, if we left the answer as 51171515, although we might write it as

(5)(11)(7)(15)(15) using the parentheses to hold the place-value.

15 ones = 1 ten + 5 ones
16 tens = 1 hundred + 6 tens
eleven 100s = one 1000 + one 100

In vertical form we write the problem → → → →

$$\begin{array}{r} 34,567 \\ + 27,298 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

- (1) Starting in the ones-place we add 7 and 8 to get 15 ones. We keep (bring down) the 5 and add 1 to the tens-place → → → → → → → → → →

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ 34,567 \\ + 27,298 \\ \hline 5 \end{array} \quad \text{We say "7 plus 8 is 15; bring down the 5 and carry the 1"}$$

- (2) Now we go to the tens-place and add 1, 6, and 9. That is: $1 + 6 + 9 = (1 + 6) + 9 = 7 + 9 = 16$. We bring down the 6 and carry 1 → → → → →

$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ 34,567 \\ + 27,298 \\ \hline 65 \end{array} \quad \text{We're adding 1 ten, 6 tens and 9 tens to get 16 tens}$$

- (3) Now we move to the hundreds-place and add 1, 5, and 2 to get 8. $[1 + 5 + 2 = (1 + 5) + 2 = 6 + 2 = 8]$ → → → → →

$$\begin{array}{r} 11 \\ 34,567 \\ + 27,298 \\ \hline 865 \end{array} \quad \text{Since we only have 8 in the hundreds-place, we don't carry.}$$

- (4) Moving to the thousands-place we now add 4 and 7 to get 11. We bring down a 1 and carry a 1 to get → → → → → → → →

$$\begin{array}{r} 111 \\ 34,567 \\ + 27,298 \\ \hline 1,865 \end{array} \quad \text{That is, we exchanged ten 1,000s for one 10,000.}$$

- (5) Moving to the ten-thousands-place, we add 1, 3, and 2 to get 6. → → → → →

$$\begin{array}{r} 111 \\ 34,567 \\ + 27,298 \\ \hline 61,865 \end{array}$$

The study of addition brings with it the study of subtraction. Have you ever made change for anyone?

Or have you ever watched anyone make change for you?

Suppose you go to a store and buy something for \$27. You get permission to pay for it by using a check for \$45. To give you your change the clerk subtracts \$27 from \$45. Yet, unless the clerk has an electronic cash register that subtracts, the clerk computes your change by using addition.

For example, the clerk starts by saying "\$27". Then he takes three \$1-bills and says "and 3 is 30". Then he takes a \$10-bill and says "and 10 more is 40". Then he takes a \$5-bill and says "and 5 more is 45"

All in all he has given you three \$1-bills, one \$10-bill and a \$5-bill; for a total of \$18.

The notion of "subtraction" or "take away" was probably induced by a tally mark interpretation.

Example 15

What number must we add to 8 in order to get 15 as the sum?

We could start with the sum and represent it by fifteen tally marks.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

Then cross out the eight you started with, and what's left is the answer:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15
 8 7

Start with.....\$27
 Add.....\$ 3
 to get.....\$30
 Add.....\$10
 to get.....\$40
 Add.....\$ 5
 to get.....\$45

Answer: 7

Read the problem carefully. You are not being asked to add 8 and 15! In terms of fill-in-the-blank, don't confuse:

(a) $8 + 15 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}}$
 with
 (b) $8 + \underline{\hspace{1cm}} = 15$

(a) is an addition problem;
 (b) is a subtraction problem

We could also have used our addition table. The key point is that (b) is true when the blank is replaced by 7. That is, $8 + \underline{7} = 15$

Using Example 14 as our backdrop, we can now introduce the following new vocabulary.

 **
 ** *Notation and Vocabulary* **
 ** *for* **
 ** *Subtraction* **
 **
 ** (1) *When we want the number that must* **
 ** *be added to 8 to yield 15 as the* **
 ** *sum we write 15 - 8.* **
 **
 ** (2) *" - " is called a minus sign and we* **
 ** *read 15 - 8 as "15 minus 8". We* **
 ** *also say that we're subtracting 8* **
 ** *from 15.* **
 **
 ** (3) *Since we know that 7 must be added* **
 ** *to 8 to get 15 as the sum, we* **
 ** *write:* $15 - 8 = 7$ **
 **
 ** (4) *The answer to a subtraction prob-* **
 ** *lem is called the difference.* **
 ** *That is, the difference of 15 and 8* **
 ** *is 7.* **
 **
 ** *Special Note:* **
 ** *Beware of order when you sub-* **
 ** *tract. In terms of whole num-* **
 ** *bers we can take 8 from 15, but* **
 ** *(at least as of now) we can't* **
 ** *take 15 from 8. That is, sub-* **
 ** *traction doesn't possess the* **
 ** *commutative property. Remem-* **
 ** *ber:* **
 ** (5) *first number - second number* **
 ** *means the number we must add* **
 ** *to the second number to get the* **
 ** *first number as the sum.* **

15 and 8 are also given names. Using vertical form, we have:

$$\begin{array}{r} 15 \text{ (minuend)} \\ - 8 \text{ (subtrahend)} \\ \hline 7 \text{ (difference)} \end{array}$$

Nor does subtraction possess the associative property. For example:

$$\begin{array}{l} 9 - (3 - 1) = 9 - 2 = 7 \\ \text{but} \\ (9 - 3) - 1 = 6 - 1 = 5 \end{array}$$

In other words, $9 - (3 - 1)$ and $(9 - 3) - 1$ look alike if the parentheses are left out but they name different numbers. Therefore, when we subtract, grouping is very important.

Again we need only know the addition tables for single-digit numerals in order to subtract if we use place value notation.

Let's practice with a few problems.

Example 16

What number must be added to 432 to give 758 as the sum?

In terms of fill-in-the-blank, we have:

$$\underline{\hspace{1cm}} + 432 = 758 \quad (1)$$

and in terms of subtraction we have

$$758 - 432 = \underline{\hspace{1cm}} \quad (2)$$

If we write the problem in vertical form, with the powers of ten present, we have:

	hundreds	tens	ones
	7	5	8
-	4	3	2
	3	2	6

With the powers of ten omitted, we have:

$$\begin{array}{r} 758 \\ - 432 \\ \hline 326 \end{array}$$

As a check we need only add 326 to 432 and verify that the sum is 758.

Notice that we could also have used the change-making technique had we so desired.

Start with	432	
Add.....	300	→ 300
to get.....	732	
Add.....	20	→ + 20
to get.....	752	
Add.....	6	→ + 6
to get.....	758	326

While the "vertical" method is more compact than the "change-making" method, the latter method allows us to visualize better that subtraction is really a form of addition.

Answer: 326

In terms of a calculator, the advantage of (2) over (1) is that we can do (2) on the calculator. We enter 758, press the "-" key, enter 432, and then press the "=" key; but the calculator doesn't help us with (1).

$$\begin{array}{l} 7 - 4 = 3 \text{ because } 3 + 4 = 7 \\ 5 - 3 = 2 \text{ because } 2 + 3 = 5 \\ 8 - 2 = 6 \text{ because } 6 + 2 = 8 \end{array}$$

$$\text{That is: } \begin{array}{r} 758 \\ 432 \\ \hline 326 \end{array} =$$

There are many different ways that we can "make change" What's important is that we're adding on to 432 the amount necessary to give us 758 as the sum.

There is one problem that occurs with subtraction when we deal with whole numbers. The least whole number is 0. So, for example, no matter what whole number we use to replace the blank in $9 + \underline{\quad}$, the sum has to be at least 9. In particular, then, it is impossible to fill in the blank with a correct whole number if we have $9 + \underline{\quad} = 4$.

In the language of subtraction, we cannot use whole numbers to solve the problem:

$$4 - 9 = \underline{\quad}$$

and this can cause us difficulty when we use the vertical method to subtract.

Example 17

Subtract 19 from 34.

This is another way of asking us to compute $34 - 19$. This, in turn, asks to find the number we must add to 19 to get 34 as the sum. There are several permissible methods, among which are:

Tally Marks

Start with 34 tally marks; cross-out 19 of them; and what's left is the answer:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX| | | | | | | | | | |

Change-making

Start with.....19
 Add.....5 +
 to get.....24
 Add.....10 +
 to get.....34
 5 + 10 = 15

But suppose we wanted to use the vertical

That is, the least we could add is nothing, and that would still give us 9 as the answer. If we added any other whole number, the sum would have to be more than 9

We can't take away more than we have!

Answer: 15

Can you see how cumbersome this method can become? It's easy to visualize but it's hardly feasible when we deal with larger numbers.

method. We'd write:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{tens} \quad \text{ones} \\ 3 \quad 4 \\ - 1 \quad 9 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

The problem is that we can't subtract 9 ones from 4 ones! We can, however, exchange 1 ten for 10 ones. In more rigorous fashion:

$$\begin{aligned} 34 &= 3 \text{ tens} + 4 \text{ ones} \\ &= 30 + 4 \\ &= (20 + 10) + 4 \\ &= 20 + (10 + 4) \\ &= 20 + 14 \\ &= 2 \text{ tens} + 14 \text{ ones.} \end{aligned}$$

In other words, we rewrite

as

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{tens} \quad \text{ones} \\ 3 \quad 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{tens} \quad \text{ones} \\ 2 \quad 14 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Now the problem becomes:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{tens} \quad \text{ones} \\ 2 \quad 14 \\ - 1 \quad 9 \\ \hline 1 \quad 5 \end{array}$$

If the labels are omitted we have to find a way to make it clear that we have 14 ones. This is a touchy problem because we've already emphasized that we can't have more than a single-digit per place value column. What we do is write the 1 very small and a bit above the 4 to create the impression that there is still only one digit in the column. That is

$$2 \overset{1}{4}$$

We replaced 30 by 20 + 10

We used the Associative Property of Addition

Think in terms of money. You have three \$10-bills and four \$1-bills. You exchange a \$10-bill for ten \$1-bills. You now have two \$10-bills and fourteen \$1-bills.

We might also have written 2(14) but that might be even more confusing.

$$\begin{matrix} 2 \\ 3 \end{matrix} \begin{matrix} 1 \\ 4 \end{matrix}$$

In terms of borrowing, Example 16 would look like:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 3 \overline{) 14} \\ - 12 \\ \hline 2 \end{array}$$

Now we're subtracting 9 from 14 and 1 from 2.

Let's practice a bit more with the borrowing technique.

Answer: 356

we get:

$$\begin{array}{r} 543 \\ - 187 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

We cannot subtract 7 from 3, so we go to the tens-place and borrow 1 from the 4. → → → → → → → → → → → → → → → →

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ 5 \cancel{4}^1 3 \\ 1 \ 8 \ 7 \end{array}$$

We now return to the ones-place and subtract 7 from 13 to get + + + + + + +

$$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ 543 \\ 187 \\ \hline 6 \end{array}$$

Next we repeat the procedure, starting with the tens-place. We can't subtract 8 from 3, so we go to the hundreds-place and borrow 1 from the 5 to get → → → → → → → → → → → →

We then subtract 8 tens from 13 tens to get → → → → → → → → → → → → → → → → →

Finally, we go to the hundreds-place and subtract 1 from 4 to get → → → → → → → → → → → →

If the place-values were present, we'd see that what we've really done by borrowing is to rewrite 543 as 400 + 130 + 13. We then had:

$$\begin{array}{r} 400 \quad 130 \quad 13 \\ (-) 100 \quad 80 \quad 7 \\ \hline 300 \quad 50 \quad 6 \end{array}$$

Note that borrowing is simply a technique used in place value. We can subtract without borrowing. In terms of change-making we have:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Start with} \dots\dots\dots 187 \\ \text{Add} \dots\dots\dots \underline{6} + \quad 6 \\ \text{to get} \dots\dots\dots 193 \\ \text{Add} \dots\dots\dots \underline{50} + \quad + 50 \\ \text{to get} \dots\dots\dots 243 \\ \text{Add} \dots\dots\dots \underline{300} + \quad + 300 \\ \text{to get} \dots\dots\dots 543 \end{array}$$

No matter how many digits we have, the procedure remains the same. We do the same sequence of steps repeatedly. The borrowing method does bother some people when we have to borrow from a place in which there is a 0. That is, we can't borrow if there's nothing to borrow. Yet if we understand what we're doing, this doesn't present a major problem.

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \overset{b}{3} \\ \cancel{5} \cancel{4} \overset{b}{3} \\ - 187 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \overset{b}{3} \\ \cancel{5} \cancel{4} \overset{b}{3} \\ - 187 \\ \hline 56 \end{array}$$

The previous steps are included for the sake of illustration. If we were doing the problem ourselves, all we'd actually see on the paper is the last step.

That is:

hundreds	tens	ones	
5	4	3	=
5	3	13	=
4	13	13	
- 1	8	7	
3	5	6	

Example 19

Use borrowing to subtract 2,678 from 7,305.

Answer: 4,627

Using the vertical alignment we have:

$$\begin{array}{r} 7305 \\ - 2678 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

We can't subtract 8 from 5. So we go to the tens-place to borrow. But the 0 there tells us that there are no tens to borrow. So we go to the hundreds-place. We "borrow" one of our 3 hundreds, exchanging it for 10 tens.

(See margin diagrams) $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ 7 \cancel{3}^{10} 0 5 \\ - 2 6 7 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Now we can borrow one of the 10 tens and exchange it for 10 ones. $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 9 \\ 7 \cancel{3}^{10} 0^{15} 5 \\ - 2 6 7 8 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Returning to the ones-place we can now subtract 8 from 15 to obtain $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 9 \\ 7 \cancel{3}^{10} \cancel{0}^{15} 5 \\ - 2 6 7 8 \\ \hline 7 \end{array}$$

Next we move to the tens-place and subtract 7 from 9 to get $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$

$$\begin{array}{r} 2 9 \\ 7 \cancel{3}^{10} \cancel{0}^{15} 5 \\ - 2 6 7 8 \\ \hline 2 7 \end{array}$$

Moving to the hundreds place, we can't subtract 6 from 2, so we go to the thousands-place and borrow one from the 7 to get $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6^{12} 2 9 \\ 7 \cancel{3}^{10} \cancel{0}^{15} 5 \\ - 2 6 7 8 \\ \hline 2 7 \end{array}$$

(Notice that the 1 went next to the 2, not the 3. Once we cross out a digit, it's gone.)

Coming back to the hundreds-place, we now subtract 6 from 12 to get $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6^{12} 2 9 \\ 7 \cancel{3}^{10} \cancel{0}^{15} 5 \\ - 2 6 7 8 \\ \hline 6 2 7 \end{array}$$

Finally, we go to the thousands place and subtract 2 from 6 to get $\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6^{12} 2 9 \\ 7 \cancel{3}^{10} \cancel{0}^{15} 5 \\ - 2 6 7 8 \\ \hline 4 6 2 7 \end{array}$$

The final step shows us, in an abbreviated form, that we rewrote 7,305 as 6 thousands, 12 hundreds, 9 tens,

and 15 ones. That is: $6000 + 1200 + 90 + 15$
 $(-)\underline{2000 \quad 600 \quad 70 \quad 8}$
 $4000 + 600 + 20 + 7$

While the method used in these examples is efficient it is also frustrating. The problem is that we get the least important digits first, and this problem worsens as the number of digits increases.

Suppose, for example, that we used the same method to find the sum of 2,119,435,982 and 4,967,059,231. Our first step would yield:

$$\begin{array}{r} 2,119,435,982 \\ + 4,967,059,231 \\ \hline 3 \end{array}$$

and not until nine steps later do we arrive at:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \quad 1 \quad 11 \quad 1 \\ 2,119,435,982 \\ + 4,967,059,231 \\ \hline 7,086,495,213 \end{array}$$

It would be nice if we could develop the *number* sense to expect the sum to be approximately 7 billion before we even began to find the exact answer.

A very important type of approximation is known as rounding off. To understand rounding off, it is helpful to develop some new vocabulary.

- - The Multiples of Ten

In the counting sequence 1, 2, 3, . . . think of the numbers as modifying ten.

The resulting numbers:

1 *ten*, 2 *tens*, 3 *tens*, 4 *tens*, . . . are called the multiples of ten.

10 is called the 1st multiple of ten, 20 is called the 2nd multiple of 10, 30 is called the 3rd multiple of ten and so on.

Let's make sure we understand the new notation.

Think of \$7,086,495,213. If the 3 is in error, we're off by at most a few dollars. But if the 7 is in error, we are off by billions of dollars.

In mathematics we often use ". . ." as an abbreviation for "and so on"

Get the idea? For example 30 is 3 tens. So we call 30 the 3rd multiple of ten.

Example 20

What is the 23rd multiple of ten?

Answer: 230

The 23rd multiple of ten means 23 tens.

tens	ones
23	

If we want to write the answer in place value notation we have to keep exchanging 10 tens for a hundred until there are less than 10 tens remaining. This gives us:

hundreds	tens	ones
	23	
1	13	
2	3	

which we read as 230.

Notice that we would get the same answer if we simply placed a 0 after 23.

- - The Multiples of a Hundred

These are the numbers we get if we count by hundreds. That is:

1 hundred, 2 hundreds, 3 hundreds, . . .

or

100, 200, 300, . . .

Example 21

What is the 23rd multiple of a hundred?

Answer: 2,300

The 23rd multiple of a hundred means 23 hundreds. Using the same approach as in Example 14, we have:

thousands	hundreds	tens	ones
	23		
1	13		
2	3		

which we write in place value notation as:

2,300

- - Multiples of 10^n

These are the numerals that consist of the sequence:

1 followed by n zeroes, 2 followed by n zeroes, 3 followed by n zeroes, . . .

Example 22

What is the 8th multiple of 10^6 ?

Since 10^6 means a 1 followed by 6 zeroes, we have that $10^6 = 1,000,000$. Hence the 8th multiple of 10^6 means eight 1,000,000's, or 8 million. In place value notation, 8 million is 8,000,000.

Perhaps by now you've begun to notice a pattern.

```
*****
**                                     **
** A Pattern                       **
**                                     **
** Place value notation gives as an  **
** easy way to recognize multiples of **
**  $10^n$ . Namely:                   **
**                                     **
** - - If the number ends in one 0   **
**      it is a multiple of ten.     **
**                                     **
** - - If the number ends in two 0's **
**      it is a multiple of 100      **
**                                     **
** - - If the number ends in  $n$  zeroes, **
**      it is a multiple of  $10^n$ .    **
**                                     **
*****
```

Notice that a number can be a multiple of more than one power of ten.

Example 23

Is 45,100 a multiple of:

(a) ten? (b) hundred? (c) thousand?

(a) Since 45,100 ends in a 0, it is a

Recall that 10^n is the place value numeral that consists of a 1 followed by n zeroes (Module 1)

Answer: 8,000,000

A good idea is simply to write in the correct number of 0's first, and place the commas properly.

In effect, we replaced the 1 in 1,000,000 by an 8.

That is, the ones-digit is 0.

That is, both the ones-digit and tens-digit are 0's

Answer: (a) yes (b) yes
(c) no

multiple of ten. In fact it is the 4,510th multiple of ten. To see this, simply cross out the last 0 and look at what number is left-- namely 4,510.

(b) Since 45,100 ends in two 0's it is a multiple of a hundred. If we cross out the last two 0's we see that 45,100 is the 451st multiple of a hundred.

(c) Since 45,100 doesn't end in 3 zeroes it is not a multiple of a thousand. In fact the 45th multiple of a thousand is 45 thousand (45,000) which is less than 45,100; while the 46th multiple of a thousand is 46 thousand (46,000) which is greater than 45,100.

Example 24

Between what two consecutive multiples of a thousand is 45,100?

This is a key point. Any number which is not a multiple of 10^n must be between two consecutive multiples of 10^n . In Example 16 we've already seen that 45,100 is between the 45th multiple of a thousand and the 46th multiple of a thousand.

Now comes the idea of rounding off. In terms of thousands we know that 45,100 is between 45,000 and 46,000. The difference of 45,100 and 45,000 is only 100 while the difference between 46,000 and 45,100

Don't let the comma confuse you. Read 45,100 as 45100. Cross out the last 0 to get 4510 or 4510. Then insert the comma in the proper place.

This means that if you count by hundreds; 45,100 is the 451st number you come to.

Answer: 45,000 and 46,000

45 and 46 are called consecutive multiples because there are no whole numbers between 45 and 46.

is 900. This tells us that 45,100 is "closer" or "more nearly equal" to 45,000 than to 46,000.

If we replace 45,100 by 45,000 we say that we have rounded 45,100 off to the nearest (multiple of a) thousand.

Example 25

Round 482 off to the nearest hundred.

The multiples of a hundred end in two 0's.

We have: 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, . . .

Clearly 482 is between 400 and 500.

Since $500 - 482 = 18$ and $482 - 400 = 82$, we

see that 482 is closer to 500 than to 400.

Note:

It would also be correct to say that 482 is between 200 and 700; but 200 and 700 are not consecutive multiples of a hundred.

Sometimes we want a better approximation than to the nearest hundred.

Example 26

Round off 482 to the nearest ten.

The multiples of ten end in one 0.

That is: 10, 20, 30, . . . Of course it's going to take a long time to get close to 482 this way, so we skip a few steps. We know that 482 is between 480 and 490 (the 48th and 49th multiples of ten). $482 - 480 = 2$ but $490 - 482 = 8$. So to the nearest ten, 482 is closer to 480 than to 490.

We usually say "to the nearest thousand" rather than to the nearest multiple of a thousand"

Answer: 500

In more formal language, 482 is greater than the 4th multiple of a hundred (400) but less than the 5th multiple of a hundred (500)

That is, 4 and 5 are consecutive numbers but 2 and 7 aren't.

Answer: 480

In more detail:

{	480	
	481	
	482	← We can see that 482
	483	is closer to 480
	484	than to 490.
	485	
	486	
	487	
	488	
	489	
	490	

Example 27

Round off 52,876 to the nearest hundred.

Answer: 52,900

Multiples of a hundred end in at least two 0's. So we see that 52,876 is between 52,800 (the 528th multiple of a hundred) and 52,900 (the 529th multiple of a hundred).

A quick way to find 52,800 is to start with 52,876 and replace the last two digits by 0's to get 52,800.

But 52,876 is closer to 52,900 than to 52,800. That is:

$$52,900 - 52,876 = 24$$

while

$$52,876 - 52,800 = 76$$

Note:

The two differences, 24 and 76, add up to 100, checking with the fact that we're rounding off to the nearest hundred.

A shortcut is to look at the digit immediately to the right of the rounding off place. If this digit is less than 5 pick the lesser multiple; if it's greater than 5, pick the greater multiple.

Now let's get back to the problem that started this discussion.

Example 28

Round off each of the following two numbers to the nearest billion:

(a) 2,119,435,982

(b) 4,967,059,231

Answers (a) 2 billion
(b) 5 billion

Recall that a billion is 1,000,000,000. Hence multiples of a billion end in at least nine 0's.

(a) Replacing the last nine digits in 2,119,435,982 by 0's, we see that it is between 2,000,000,000 and 3,000,000,000.

*That is: 2,119,435,982
 ↑↑↑ ↑↑↑ ↑↑↑
 2,000,000,000*

↓
2,119,435,982 is closer to 2,000,000,000
than to 3,000,000,000 because the digit im-
mediately to the right of the billions-place
is 1, which is less than 5.

(b) By the same reasoning ↓
4,967,059,231
is between 4,000,000,000 and 5,000,000,000.
The digit immediately to the right of the
billions-place is 9, so we are closer to
5 billion than to 4 billion.

Now for the punch line!

Example 29

By rounding off each number to
the nearest billion, estimate the
sum of 2,119,435,982 and 4,967,059,231.

From the previous example we have that
to the nearest billion, 2,119,435,982 is
2,000,000,000 and that 4,967,059,231 is
5,000,000,000.

Using \doteq to stand for "approximately equal",
we have that:

2,119,435,982 \doteq 2,000,000,000
and
4,967,059,231 \doteq 5,000,000,000

So our estimate of the sum in this case
is 2,000,000,000 + 5,000,000,000 or
7,000,000,000.

Additional drill is left to the Self-Test.

*We could, of course, do this
more directly, by finding
the differences:*

*3,000,000,000 - 2,119,435,982
and
2,119,435,982 - 2,000,000,000*

Answer: The estimate is
7 billion; that is:
7,000,000,000

*"approximately" is a vague
term. In the context of
this example, it means to
the nearest billion.*

*In essence we're replacing
a cumbersome arithmetic
problem by the simpler
problem of adding 2 and 5;
or more precisely:
2 billion + 5 billion = 7 bill-
ion*

With the advent of the electronic calculator there has been a general feeling that "old-fashioned" arithmetic is passe. The feeling essentially says:

"Why bother to learn how do arithmetic, when the calculator does it faster and better? Moreover, why bother to learn how to round off when it isn't that much work to get the exact answer using the calculator?"

While this argument has some merit, it overlooks several possibilities--

(1) What happens if the numbers have more digits than the capacity of your calculator? For example, if your calculator can only display 12 digits, how would you use it to add 2,345,678,209,567,349 and 15,679,234,609?

(2) Even when there are few enough digits for your calculator to handle, you might make an error in entering the digits. Just as people can make typographical errors, they can make calculator errors. By knowing how to make estimates, we get an idea of the correct answer before we start the problem.

This will not prevent "small" errors but it will help us guard against preposterous errors.

(3) By "reasoning" the answer, you help develop a number sense that is crucial in solving real-life problems. In fact, in the real-world, it is usually a verbal problem that first has to be interpreted numerically before we can even think of using a calculator. In effect, using the calculator when you don't understand the problem can result in your finding the answer to the wrong problem.

A healthier attitude might be that because of the calculator we should spend less time on drill and more on reading comprehension and problem solving. This will be discussed in more detail in Module 9, at which time you may start to use a calculator in this course.

But by rounding off we know that the answer is approximately 2 quadrillion plus 16 billion.

Perhaps of even more importance, calculator errors don't "jump out at you" like typographical errors. For example, if you transposed the a and h in "that" to get "taht" you can probably figure out the error by the context of the word. On the other hand if you transposed the 9 and 4 in "4,967,059,231" to get "9,467,059,231" you might not even suspect an error unless you have some number sense.

And so we come to the end of this Module on a note that is a theme for this course. We never have to choose between the "old" and the "new". Rather we take the best of each and combine them. In essence, the progress of humankind is to assimilate new material with the successful parts of the old material. In terms of this Module, we see the calculator and other modern devices as supplements to "old" mathematics.

In this spirit, we shall work on developing our number sense for the next several modules. During this time you should not use the calculator to do the examples and Test Problems. But once sufficient time has been spent on helping you develop a number sense, you will be encouraged to use a calculator--at which time our attention shall switch to the topic of how to use arithmetic in order to solve real-world problems.

After you've done the problems, however, you may use the calculator as a way to check your answers.